

Title II Tips for Reporting Race and Ethnicity Data

The new reporting requirements under Title II of the *Higher Education Act*, as amended in 2008, call for data on the number of individuals enrolled in teacher preparation programs, disaggregated by race and ethnicity.

The ethnicity category includes the number of Hispanic/Latino individuals of any race. The race category includes American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Black or African American, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, White and Two or more races. “Unknown,” “missing,” “other” or other reporting categories are not permitted.

The Secretary issued final guidance to modify the standards for racial and ethnic data used by the U.S. Department of Education (Department) on December 3, 2007. This guidance provides educational institutions and others with instructions for their collection and reporting of racial and ethnic data. The Department’s final Guidance published in the *Federal Register* is available at <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2007/pdf/E7-20613.pdf> and satisfies Office of Management and Budget’s (OMB) requirement to establish consistent government-wide guidance at the Federal level for collecting and reporting racial and ethnic data. In particular, it is designed to obtain more accurate information about the increasing number of students who identify with more than one race—a key reason OMB initiated the review and modification of the government-wide standards.

The racial and ethnic categories set forth in this final guidance are designed to measure more accurately the race and ethnicity for the general population of students, including the population of students identifying themselves as being members of more than one racial or ethnic group. A part of the Department’s mission is “ensuring equal access” to education for all students. This includes collecting racial and ethnic data about the educational progress of students from various racial and ethnic groups in our nation’s schools.

The **collection** of data requires the gathering of information from individuals by educational institutions and others, whereas the reporting of data requires the provision of aggregate information to the state or Department by educational institutions and others based on the information that has been collected from individuals. Educational institutions and others will be required to collect racial and ethnic data using a two-part question. The first question is whether the respondent is Hispanic/Latino. The second question is whether the respondent is from one or more races using the following five racial groups: American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Black or African American, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, and White. Respondents will not be offered the choice of selecting a “two or more races” category.

The process for **reporting** the data collected to the state or Department is different from the process for the collection of data from individuals. When reporting data to the state or Department, educational institutions and others will report aggregated racial and ethnic data in the following seven categories:

- (1) Hispanic/Latino of any race; and, for individuals who are non-Hispanic/ Latino only,
- (2) American Indian or Alaska Native,
- (3) Asian,
- (4) Black or African American,
- (5) Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander,
- (6) White, and
- (7) Two or more races.

The following examples may be helpful in understanding how the reporting will work.

Example 1: A respondent self-identifies as Hispanic/Latino and as Asian. This respondent is reported only in the Hispanic/ Latino category.

Example 2: A respondent self-identifies as Hispanic/Latino and as Asian and Black or African American. This respondent is reported only in the Hispanic/Latino category.

Example 3: A respondent self-identifies as non-Hispanic/Latino and as Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander. This respondent is reported in the Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander category.

Example 4: A respondent self-identifies as non-Hispanic/Latino and as American Indian or Alaska Native and White. This respondent is reported in the two or more races category.

Through this system, there will be no double reporting of persons identifying with multiple races. Similarly, while educational institutions and others will collect both racial and ethnic data using the two-part question for collecting data, they will report only ethnic data for individuals who self-identify as being Hispanic/Latino, even though the individuals will have had the opportunity to designate racial information—in addition to Hispanic/Latino ethnicity—under the two-part question. In this way, there will be no double reporting of individuals who have self-identified as having Hispanic/Latino ethnicity and who also have provided racial information in response to the second question about race. Additionally, these reporting categories will minimize paperwork burden because they are the same reporting categories used by other Federal agencies to which educational institutions and others report aggregate data.

It is understood that asking individuals to report on their race/ethnicity is optional in many places. Individuals should not be forced to report, and an ethnic/racial categorization should not be imposed or assumed. Report on the race/ethnicity data that you have available, though the data may not be complete. Also, it is not expected that the sum of the enrolled individuals reported by race/ethnicity will equal the total number of individuals enrolled.

It should be noted that institutional of higher education will be reporting similar data on the race and ethnicity of enrolled individuals through the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS). However, there are key differences between the IPEDS data collection and the Title II data collection. IPEDS will continue to use the category of “nonresident alien” as an alternative to collecting race/ethnicity from nonresident aliens. IPEDS will also continue to include a “race and/or ethnicity unknown” category for reporting aggregate data from postsecondary institutions. These two categories are not included in the Title II data collection.